

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image-effect method, comprising:

computing a matching between a first image and a second image and detecting a corresponding point on the second image, which corresponds to a lattice point of a mesh on the first image; and

defining a destination polygon on the second image using the detected corresponding point, wherein the destination polygon corresponds to a source polygon that constitutes the mesh on the first image.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the matching is computed pixel by pixel between the first image and the second image.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the matching is computed pixel by pixel based on correspondence between a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the first image and a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the second image.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said detecting the corresponding point comprises:

multiresolutionalizing the first image and the second

image by respectively extracting the critical points;

performing a pixel-by-pixel matching computation on the first image and the second image at each multiresolution level while inheriting a result of a pixel-by-pixel matching computation at different multiresolution level; and

acquiring a pixel-by-pixel correspondence relation at a finest level of resolution.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said defining the destination polygon comprises:

outputting a correspondence relation between the source polygon and the destination polygon to a corresponding point file; and

retaining the corresponding point file in a manner such that said corresponding point file is associated with the first image and the second image.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising generating an intermediate image between the first image and the second image by performing a polygon-by-polygon interpolation computation using said corresponding point file.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said generating the intermediate image comprises computing a corresponding point

inside the destination polygon that corresponds to a point inside the source polygon.

8. An image-effect apparatus, comprising:

an image input unit which obtains a first image and a second image; and

a matching processor which computes a matching between the first image and the second image,

wherein said matching processor generates a corresponding point file by defining a destination polygon on the second image, which corresponds to a source polygon that constitutes a mesh on the first image.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said matching processor computes the matching pixel by pixel based on correspondence between a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the first image and a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the second image.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said matching processor multiresolutionalizes the first image and the second image by respectively extracting the critical points, performs a pixel-by-pixel matching computation on the first image and the second image at each multiresolution level while inheriting a

result of a pixel-by-pixel matching computation at a different multiresolution level, and acquires a pixel-by-pixel correspondence relation at a finest level of resolution.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a communication unit which transmits said corresponding point file to an external apparatus.

12. An image-effect apparatus, comprising an intermediate image generator which obtains a first image, a second image and a corresponding point file, and generates an intermediate image between the two images, wherein the corresponding point file describes a positional correspondence relation between a lattice point of a mesh defined on the first image and a corresponding point on the second image.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a display unit which adjusts a timing of the intermediate image, the first image, and the second image and displays these images.

14. A computer program executable by a computer, the program comprising the functions of:

computing a matching between a first image and a second image and detecting a corresponding point on the second image,

and the second image based on the correspondence information;
and

providing an image-effect function when the intermediate
image is generated.

17. An image interpolation method, comprising:

obtaining correspondence information between a source
polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and
a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second
image;

generating an intermediate image between the first image
and the second image based on the correspondence information;
and

providing a utility function for generating a motion
picture when the intermediate image is generated.

18. An image interpolation method, comprising:

obtaining correspondence information between a source
polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and
a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second
image;

generating an intermediate image between the first image
and the second image based on the correspondence information;
and

which corresponds to a lattice point of a mesh on the first image; and

defining a destination polygon on the second image using the detected corresponding point, wherein the destination polygon corresponds to a source polygon that constitutes the mesh on the first image.

15. An image interpolation method, comprising:

obtaining correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image;

generating an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information; and

providing an electronic commerce commodity presentation function when the intermediate image is generated.

16. An image interpolation method, comprising:

obtaining correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image;

generating an intermediate image between the first image

performing the generation of the intermediate image based on a mobile function which assumes application to a mobile device.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein said commodity presentation function comprises displaying a commodity rotating according to an instruction from a user.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein said commodity presentation function comprises displaying an intermediate image obtained by interpolating a commodity image in two directions.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein the image-effect function comprises sequentially choosing two images out of a plurality of images as the first image and the second image, and smoothly displaying the intermediate image generated from the sequentially chosen two images.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the image-effect function comprises displaying an intermediate image obtained by interpolating an image to be processed in two directions.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein said utility function

comprises specifying a number of intermediate images to be generated.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the specification of the number of intermediate images to be generated is obtained from a user.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein said mobile function comprises displaying the intermediate image generated based on either the first image or the second image and said correspondence information.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the intermediate image is generated through performing a streaming process for either the first image or the second image and said correspondence information.

27. An image interpolation apparatus, comprising an intermediate image generating unit which obtains correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image, and generates an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information,

wherein said intermediate image generating unit provides an electronic commerce commodity presentation function when the intermediate image is generated.

28. An image interpolation apparatus, comprising an intermediate image generating unit which obtains correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image, and generates an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information, wherein said intermediate image generating unit provides an image-effect function when the intermediate image is generated.

29. An image interpolation apparatus, comprising an intermediate image generating unit which obtains correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image, and generates an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information, wherein said intermediate image generating unit provides a utility function for generating a motion picture when the

intermediate image is generated.

30. An image interpolation apparatus, comprising an intermediate image generating unit which obtains correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image, and generates an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information, wherein said intermediate image generating unit displays the intermediate image based on a mobile function which assumes application to a mobile device.

31. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said commodity presentation function comprises displaying a commodity rotating according to an instruction from a user.

32. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said commodity presentation function comprises displaying an intermediate image obtained by interpolating a commodity image in two directions.

33. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the image-effect function comprises sequentially choosing two images out of a

plurality of images as the first image and the second image, and smoothly displaying the intermediate image generated from the sequentially chosen two images.

34. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the image-effect function comprises displaying an intermediate image obtained by interpolating an image to be processed in two directions.

35. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said utility function comprises specifying a number of intermediate images to be generated.

36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the specification of the number of intermediate images to be generated is obtained from a user.

37. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said mobile function comprises displaying the intermediate image generated based on either the first image or the second image and said correspondence information.

38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the intermediate image is generated through performing a streaming process for either the first image or the second image and said correspondence

information.

39. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising a display unit which adjusts a timing of the intermediate image, the first image, and the second image and displays these images.

40. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a display unit which adjusts a timing of the intermediate image, the first image, and the second image and displays these images.

41. The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a display unit which adjusts a timing of the intermediate image, the first image, and the second image and displays these images.

42. The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a display unit which adjusts a timing of the intermediate image, the first image, and the second image and displays these images.

43. A computer program executable by a computer, the program comprising the functions of:

obtaining correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image;

generating an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information; and

providing an electronic commerce commodity presentation function when the intermediate image is generated.

44. A computer program executable by a computer, the program comprising the functions of:

obtaining correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image;

generating an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information; and

providing an image-effect function when the intermediate image is generated.

45. A computer program executable by a computer, the program comprising the functions of:

obtaining correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image;

generating an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information; and

providing a utility function for generating a motion picture when the intermediate image is generated.

46. A computer program executable by a computer, the program comprising the functions of:

obtaining correspondence information between a source polygon which constitutes a mesh provided on a first image and a destination polygon which constitutes a mesh on a second image;

generating an intermediate image between the first image and the second image based on the correspondence information; and

performing the generation of the intermediate image based on a mobile function which assumes application to a mobile device.